

CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:
providing digital image data;
determining an identity of a user associated with a communications device;
and
defining a modified version of the provided digital image data, based on the determined identity of the user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the image data, comprises:
scanning a hardcopy document to produce the digital image data.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the digital image data, comprises:
receiving an image file for attachment to an email message.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the identity of the user associated with the communications devices comprises accessing network login data associated with a device coupled to a communication network.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
accessing machine-identifying data in a memory associated with the communications device;
wherein defining the modified version of the provided digital image data, based on the determined identity of the user includes defining the modified version based on the accessed machine-identifying data.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein determining the identity of the user comprises receiving data via a control panel of the communications device.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein defining the modified version of the provided digital image data, based on the determined identity of the user, comprises:
 - retrieving image-modification data from a database, based on the determined identity; and
 - defining the modified version of the provided image data based on the retrieved image-modification data.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein defining the modified version of the provided image data based on the retrieved image-modification data, comprises changing the image data to indicate identity of the user.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein defining the modified version of the provided image data based on the retrieved image-modification data, further comprises changing the image data to include a watermark.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the watermark is normally visible when rendered by a printing device.
11. The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating the modified version of the provided image data to a digital data receiver.
12. A machine-readable medium comprising instructions for:
 - determining an identity of a user associated with a communications device;
 - and
 - defining a modified version of scanned image data, based on the determined identity of the user.

13. The medium of claim 12, wherein the instructions for defining the modified version of the scanned image data, based on the determined identity of the user, comprise instructions for:
 - retrieving image-modification data from a database, based on the determined identity; and
 - defining the modified version of the provided image data based on the retrieved image-modification data.
14. The medium of claim 12, wherein the medium is electronic, magnetic, or optical.
15. A method comprising:
 - changing scanned image data associated with a hardcopy document, based on user- identity data associated with a digital image sender.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein changing scanned image data associated with the hardcopy document, based on identity data associated with the digital image sender, comprises:
 - determining identity of a user of the digital image sender, based on network login information for the user;
 - retrieving image-modification data from a database, based on the determined identity; and
 - changing the scanned image data based on the retrieved image-modification data.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein changing scanned image data based on the retrieved image-modification data, comprises:
 - changing the scanned image data to include information indicating identity of the user and a time.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein changing scanned image includes changing the scanned image data to include information indicating identity of the image sender.
19. The method of claim 17, wherein changing scanned image data based on the retrieved image-modification data, comprises changing the scanned image data to include one or more of a barcode, a watermark, and a header, with the included barcode, watermark, or header indicating identity of the user.
20. Apparatus comprising:
 - a scanner;
 - a control panel; and
 - a scanner;
 - a control module coupled to the scanner and the control panel, the control module including:
 - a processor; and
 - a storage medium coupled to the processor including instructions for:
 - determining an identity of a user associated with the apparatus; and
 - defining a modified version of scanned image data from the scanner, based on the determined identity of the user.
21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the instructions for defining the modified version of the scanned image data, based on the determined identity of the user, comprise instructions for:
 - retrieving image-modification data from a database, based on the determined identity; and

defining the modified version of the image data based on the
retrieved image-modification data.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, further including a network communications device for communicating the modified version of the scanned image data using a network communications protocol.

23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the instructions for determining identity of a user of the apparatus, include instructions for determining identity of the user based on network login information for the user.

24. Apparatus comprising:

a scanner;

a control panel;

a scanner; and

a control module coupled to the scanner and the control panel, the control module including:

means for determining an identity of a user associated with
the apparatus; and

means for defining a modified version of scanned image data
from the scanner, based on the determined identity of
the user.